

OCTOBER 2011

The *Pipevine*

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



General Meeting

October 5, 2011

Wednesday 7:30 pm

Butte County Library, Chico

PLANT COLORS

Beauty and Science All Around Us

Presented by JIM BISHOP



Jim has been fascinated by plant colors for years. His educational background includes physics, earth and atmospheric science, some biochemistry and plant physiology, and a lot of self-education with readings about the science of plant color. He has taken hundreds of plant-color photographs for both beauty and as illustrational examples. Plants are an endless source of enjoyment and interest, and he likes to offer others some of what he has seen.

Plants offer endless, engaging beauty in their many colors. There are the blooms of spring in our foothills, lovely desert and mountain wildflowers, the glorious leaves of autumn, and even the beauty of the universal greens of leaves before they turn. There are interesting stories in all of that.

Part of the story will be about the science and why—how do plant colors arise, how do conditions such as acidity change pigment colors, what purpose do they serve? The interesting questions are endless (and not all of the answers are known). You'll gain some background that will enrich your understanding and appreciation of plant colors, and you'll have new questions of your own.

And much of the program will be just to enjoy the beauty of the rich and varied colors displayed by plants...flowers, fruits, leaves, and stems...from deserts to mountaintops, from shrublands to fall-color forests and woodlands.

Acer sanguinum (Sugar Maple)
Photo by Jim Bishop

Field Trips

**Wes Dempsey
and Gerry Ingco
Co-chairs**

MAIDU MEDICINE WALK UPPER BIDWELL PARK

October 2
Sunday

Meet at Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park (Parking area E) at 9 am for a short, one-mile walk to see about 30 of the plants used by the local Maidu Indians for medicine, food, and crafts. Soaproot for cleansing suds and catching fish, elderberry for flutes and clappers, gray pine for skin ointment and food, and many others. Over at noon. Leader: Wes Dempsey 530-342-22933.



mountlassen.cnps.org

CSU, CHICO CAMPUS TREE TOURS

October 21
November 4, 18
December 2
Fridays

Meet at 10 am in front of Bidwell Mansion, parking is free for participants. This is the 125th anniversary of CSUC Campus so we will be featuring the many fine trees that were in existence or planted

about that time by the Bidwells: European lindens, American chestnuts, California incense cedars, water oaks, English and east white oaks, London planes, southern magnolia, pecans, Turkey oak, and others. Ends about 11:45. Leaders: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123

KINGS CREEK FALLS TRAIL LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

October 16
Sunday

Meet at the Chico Park & Ride west parking lot (Hwy 99/32) in time to leave by 8:30 am. Call the leader for alternate meeting place. We will drive 89 miles to trail head for the falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Starting at 7,300' elevation, the trail follows Kings Creek as it cascades in a continuous series of smaller falls to end at Kings Falls proper. The falls, dropping about fifty feet, are draped in ferns which thrive off the mist. Watch for mountain ash with its clumps of brilliant red berries. Hiking distance, one way, is about 1 1/2 miles and descends a vertical distance of 700 feet. Level of difficulty is moderate and the way back is uphill. Take water, sun protection, lunch, insect repellent, sturdy shoes, and money for ride sharing. Rain Cancels. Leader: Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

UPPER BUTTE CREEK FLUME FALL COLORS

November 6
Sunday

Meet at the Chico Park & Ride west parking lot (Hwy 32/99) at 9 am with lunch, water, hiking gear, and money for driver. We will drive up Powellton Road a short distance to a trail down to the flume where we see a large 'hanging garden' of chain ferns. Along the flume big leaf maple, dogwood, and Indian rhubarb should be in full color. Two miles easy walking along the flume bank and over a few trestles brings us to our lunch spot at scenic Clear Creek Falls. Return by the same route. Call for other meeting place above Paradise. Leaders: Wes Dempsey 530-342-2293 and Gerry Ingco 530-893-5123.

Susan Bazell and Jana Lathrop with
giant Mountain Hemlocks (*Tsuga mertensiana*)
Ridge Lakes Trail, Lassen Volcanic National Park
Sept 3, 2011 Photo by Woody Elliott

Executive Board Meeting

October 19, 2011

Woody Elliott's 530-342-6053
woody.elliott@gmail.com

President's Message

by Paul L. Moore
Chapter President

The Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, while being a fairly small nonprofit organization, is making some tremendous progress in serving its membership and the public. Under the leadership of Woody Elliott, we have established a website which gives very complete, up to date information about events, issues, and learning opportunities. The website is a companion to the state website so you can keep track of what is happening everywhere in California. And, to keep close tabs on what is happening in Northern California, the Mount Lassen Chapter's facebook page is available. I urge you to take a look at mountlassen.cnps.org, and if you have any ideas about how to improve it, please feel comfortable letting Woody know.

We are also making significant progress in establishing a companion to the state organization's Rare Plant Program, chaired locally by Ron Coley. Its exciting program was highlighted in the September *Pipevine*, but what is most exiting is that its search program will expand from two outings this year to four already planned efforts for next year. You will be able to obtain the schedule by reviewing the event schedule published monthly or going online.

I would also like to highlight the programs about native plants that take place each month at the General Meetings of the Mount Lassen Chapter held typically in the Chico Library on 1st Avenue. Our September program was a series of photographs of native flowers taken by members over many years, including some by Phyllis Lindley, beginning in the 1950's. How technology has changed! Of special note is the program on October 5, which will be a presentation by our own Jim Bishop on Plant Colors. Jim has had a long and technical interest in plant colors including information from physics, earth and atmospheric science, biochemistry and plant physiology, as well as the general literature on plant colors. He will bring a wide range of pictures to illustrate the issues he will present. This will be a very informative and stimulating program. I hope to see you there.

Legislative Notes

by David Anderson

RULES FOR WILD AND ROADLESS AREAS THREATENED

Many bills pending before the 112th Congress seek to weaken or deny enforcement funding to environmental protection laws, but H.R. 1581 (Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011) is one of the most egregious. The identical Senate bill is S. 1087.

The bill would release public lands administered by the BLM that have not been designated as wilderness (and not identified as unsuitable for wilderness designation) from further study for wilderness designation. Such lands would no longer be subject to the requirement that they be managed in a manner that does not impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness.

H.R. 1581 would also rescind the Forest Service roadless area rules, which were adopted after prolonged rulemaking hearings and public comments. It would release USFS inventoried roadless areas, not already designated as wilderness, from further study for wilderness designation. Existing road building and other land use restrictions in those areas would be abolished.

In short, millions of acres of pristine lands with wilderness characteristics (much of it in California) would be opened to unchecked development with its adverse effects on both wildlife and native plants.

As of September 10, H.R. 1581 and S. 1087 are still in Committees in the House and Senate. Our elected representatives in Congress all have websites and are listed in the telephone book. If you want to help save the pristine character of our public lands, tell them to vote NO on this bill.



Phyllis Lindley showing her slides at the General Meeting Sept 7, 2011. Photo by Woody Elliott



THANK YOU EVERYONE that gave a donation through the Annie B's Community Drive that was sponsored by the North Valley Community Foundation. All monies donated to Mount Lassen Chapter from August 1st - September 30 was allotted back to our chapter and an additional percentage based on the total monies donated to us was granted. **THANK YOU.** Your donation to the Mount Lassen Chapter during the drive comes back to us at 100% and more.

MLC is ONLINE!
mountlassen.cnps.org

Our website is growing and changing and it will even be different when you get this *Pipevine*. Check out the **Home** page; General Meetings, Board Meetings, Field Trips (click and download each trip) current *Pipevine* newsletter (click and download), a link to CNPS E- newsletter, our own MLC facebook link, and a link to the Annie B's Community Fund Drive.

The sub-files are still being developed but some have information. **Contacts** has the Officers and Chairs emails, **Archives** have one year of Pipevines and Board Minutes (click and download)

Thanks Woody



Yes !!! we have a FACEBOOK PAGE with lots of photos and information
 G-O-O-O LOOK and LIKE US

Go to:

**California Native Plant Society,
 Mount Lassen Chapter**

Check Your MAILING LABEL

We need your Email Addresses!

Occasionally, after the *Pipevine* newsletter has been printed and mailed, we would like to provide updates to our members. These might include corrections and additions to the Field Trips calendar, local native plant-related activities that we just learned about, printable event posters, or information that wasn't available at the time we went to print.

Email is an efficient way to provide these updates and we plan to offer this service shortly. We have email addresses for most members and will send an initial email newsletter to those members.

Take a look at your *Pipevine* mailing label. If we already have an email address for you, you'll see only your membership expiration date in the top right corner, and we're set to go. **If we don't have an email address for you, there will be a # before your due date.** Maybe you don't have email. But, if you do and want to be on our updates list, email our membership chair at lindley84@att.net. Either way, you can unsubscribe at any time. Everyone will still receive the *Pipevine* by regular mail. Thank You.

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT

by Ron Coley, Rare Plant Chair

The rare plant treasure hunt is looking for new places to survey next year, to search and survey for rare plants. If you know the location of any rare plants let me know what plant(s) and where it is so we can see if it needs to be surveyed and/or documented.

If you have any photos of rare plants that the Mount Lassen Chapter can use on our new webpage we would sure appreciate being able to share them, credit will be given to the photographer. Please let me know. My phone number and/or e-mail address are in the *Pipevine* as Rare Plant Chair.





Sacramento River HABITAT RESTORATION

Jim Dempsey, of California Department of Parks and Recreation, is looking for volunteers to help with an 11-acre habitat restoration planting located 4 miles west of Chico along the Sacramento River, in early to mid November over 3-6 days.

Volunteers will work with California Conservation Corps and State Parks staff planting 4000 native plants at the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park, Pine Creek Access, west side project. The project is grant funded through the CalTrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

This is hard physical labor with shoveling and carrying heavy plants, installing protective milk cartons and clean up. He will need help with prep work; loading plants and tools, set out flags according to detailed instructions.

He will accept the assistance of anyone who can help out for even an hour. Please pass this on to potential interested community volunteers or student interns.

Please contact
 Jim Dempsey
 Environmental Scientist
 California Department of Parks
 and Recreation,
 jdempsey@parks.ca.gov
 530-538-2240

Ridge Lakes Hike
 Lassen Volcanic National Park
 Sept 3, 2011
 28 hikers at Sulphur Works
 Photo by Gerry Ingco
 See more on facebook



The 2012 Conference Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations and committee members! The 2009 Conference Auction raised almost \$10,000 for CNPS' Conservation Program, let's beat our own record in the name of California's native plants! Ideas for donations include: plant themed and handmade artwork, books, gardening accessories, jewelry, and other items of beauty, value, or interest.

If you would like to donate, please fill out the Auction Donor Form available at the www.cnps.org website. Please consider donating your time by joining the Silent Auction Committee and soliciting donations or volunteering at the conference. For questions about donations or volunteer opportunities please contact silentauction2012@cnps.org.

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Tyron Chang	Chico
Diane Haight	Chico
Ayla Mills	Chico
Thor Matteson	Chico

For information about becoming a member of MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY contact Membership Chair Phyllis Lindley 530-899-1514, lindley84@att.net or use the application on last page of this newsletter

In Mountain MEADOWS

by Rex Burress

On the August 19 day that our Oroville docent group was looking for Lotts Lake in the High Lake country above Paradise, we stopped at Philbrook Lake for lunch. Spring was still in the air at that 5000-foot elevation, and while the wildflower landscape had browned-out in Oroville pastures, the mountains were taking their turn with flowery displays in the meadows, especially near watery fields.

A moist meadow near the lake was populated by six-foot plants that looked like leafy corn stalks with a terminal white crown of small blossoms poised, as if ready to take off from earth. In fact, they were Corn Lilies, *Veratrum californicum*, found in high summer meadows above 4,500 feet, where the spring season is delayed. There was snow not so long ago, and a few dirty white drifts still lingered in the shadows.

Quite distinctive are the corn lily's parallel-veined leaves that resemble fattened corn stalk leaves, attached alternately up to the pinnacle of tiny clustered white flowers. The towering corn lilies look like the guardians of the colorful wildflowers clustered around close to the ground, and the 'corn' seemingly stands aloof like the sentinel parents of a Canada Goose family watching their goslings wobble in the grass. Ironically, Canada geese grazed nearby!

The corn lily is indeed in the lily family, and sometimes called 'False Hellebore,' mostly because some species of hellebore also have the alternate leaves up the stock even though they are shorter. Both are highly toxic if eaten, although like a number of poisonous plants, when properly used, they can become a form of medicine, as the American Indian, in some way, discovered! Some tribes also made a poison dart out of corn lily juice.

The corn lily alkaloids are extremely toxic for most animals, like a number of the lily species. The poison, which can slow the heart in some medical procedures, is concentrated in the roots of *V. californicum*, but if the leaves are eaten by sheep there is a disruption of pregnancies resulting in one-eyed lambs! It is the '666' plant: Six filaments with six yellow anthers and six petals... and six feet tall!

If Jesse Sank, husband of Cornelia Lott Sank, had had information about medicinal plants, perhaps he could have saved Cornelia when she was stricken at their summer cabin at Lotts

Lake. She died in her sleep [probably not from eating corn lilies], and Jesse had to haul her body back to Oroville in 1953. Ironically, their Lotts Lake cabin was just across the line from Butte County, in Plumas County, and lawfully, the Plumas County coroner was required to come from Quincy to verify death. Jesse was arrested for a short time for breaking the law as it was at that time. No one loved Cornelia more than Jesse.



Corn lily is sometimes called 'skunk cabbage,' because it stinks when it withers from drought or at the coming of frost. At that time it becomes harmless and was used by the Maidu. See *what you can learn from a field trip!*

A sense of history should be the most precious gift of science and of the arts. – Aldo Leopold

Corn Lily, (*Veratrum californicum*) Photo by Jack Devine

Bloomin' Bidwell Park A Guide to the Flowers

Website by Jon Aull, Chico Creek Nature Center Naturalist
It is like a plant key - you start with color and petals

bloominbidwellpark.org

Volunteer in BIDWELL PARK

Join the City of Chico's Park Division Volunteers. For information contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, or check webcalendar at: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

October 1 11 am - 2 pm

VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS IN THE PARK

Picnic Site #27 - remove invasive weeds, water native plants and mulch the area. Meet at picnic site 27 by walking in from the Madrone pedestrian entrance (off of Vallombrosa Ave) and turn right at N. Petersen Dr and walk to the picnic site. Call 624-3982 right before work session for directions.

October 4 & 7 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN THE PARK

Annie's Glen - remove invasive plants, weed around baby oak trees, and remove litter. Meet at the pedestrian bridge in Annie's Glen across from Morning Thunder. Call Tues. cell 624-1617 or Friday cell 624-3982 on the workday for more information.

October 8 11 am - 2 pm

VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS IN THE PARK

Area between Picnic Site # 24 & 25 - remove invasive weed trees (hackberry). Meet between picnic sites 24 & 25 by walking in from the Madrone pedestrian entrance (off of Vallombrosa Ave) to the picnic sites Call 624-3982 on the workday for more information.

October 11 & 14 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN THE PARK

Cedar Grove - remove invasive weeds from the area. Meet in the Cedar Grove parking lot off of E. Eighth St. If you arrive late, call 624-1617 on Tuesday or call 624-3982 on Fridays for location.

October 22 10 am - 1 pm

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY IN BIDWELL PARK.

Work on various projects: Habitat restoration in the One Mile Recreation Area; Big Chico Creek trash removal; remove weeds from around baby oak trees; painting and more. The City Park Division will provide tools and instruction. Pre-Registration and project assignment required. Registration form to be posted soon. Sign in front of Caper Acres play area. Contact the volunteer coordinator at 896-7831 for more information.

October 28 1 - 4 pm

VOLUNTEER FRIDAYS IN THE PARK

Lost Park - remove litter and weeds from this popular downtown park. Meet in the City's public parking lot #5 on East 1st St behind Solutions Cubed. Call 624-3982 right before work session for directions.

Officers & Chairs

ELECTED OFFICERS

(530)

President	PAUL MOORE pmoore@csuchico.edu	343-4287
Past President	JANNA LATHROP jlathrop4mlc@comcast.net	636-4547
Vice-President	JOHN MEEHAN jsmeehan64@yahoo.com	894-5339
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CHICO, CA 95927-3212

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OCTOBER 2011 issue



plant colors

Pipevine

Join Today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter



new _____
renew _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____ email _____
Phone _____

Send Membership Applications to:
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER CNPS
P. O. BOX 3212
CHICO, CA 95927-3212

Student / Limited Income	\$25
Individual	\$45
Family / Library	\$75
Plant Lover	\$100
Patron	\$300
Benefactor	\$600

mountlassen.cnps.org



October

- 2 - Maidu Upper Bidwell
- 5 - General Meeting
- 16 - Kings Creek Falls
- 19 - Ex Board Meeting
- 21 - Campus Tree Tour

November

- 2 - General Meeting
- 4 - Campus Tree Tour
- 6 - Upper Butte Flume
- 18 - Campus Tree Tour
- 23 - Ex Board Meeting

